

Punctuality—Its Advantages.

Not a few are the elements, the tendency of which is upward and onward, that lead to eminent success in the moral, financial and social worlds. Nor is any virtue so insignificant as not to be made practical. Nor should he who "teaches the young idea how to shoot" be denied the privilege of imparting instructions to, and impressing upon the mind of, his pupil, such habits as may promote the advancement of society, and act as accessories to the harmony and beneficial welfare of all communities. But among all the virtues in the lengthy catalogue there is one that stands prominent, viz: Punctuality. It may be likened to one of the great pillars supporting a mighty temple, the removal of which might cause the destruction, or seriously impair the safety, of the vast structure. Thus, Punctuality, if erased from that catalogue, would prove detrimental to the harmony of the material world, and cause the wildest confusion in many spheres, and ruin probably would follow in the footsteps of confusion. Punctuality implies (as Webster has it) "scrupulous exactness; observance of nice points, and particularly of time, &c." This is a rather limited definition in conveying the full comprehension of the term. However, suffice it is; for it is not our purpose to expand the definition of the term, but simply give some illustrations, and consider briefly the advantages Punctuality contains if strictly observed.

There is nothing so agreeable and commendable in the performance of any duty, in what station soever it may occur, as that of practicing scrupulous exactness. "A time for everything and everything in its time," is as true and practical a motto as was ever produced from the pen of any writer; and which should not fail to be adequately appreciated by every individual. An incident, by way of illustration, in "exactness and nice points" in punctuality, presents itself to our mind, which has often been related. Whenever there was to be a large party at the residence of Hon. Wm. M. Seward to dine or take tea with the family, the appointed time for "opening the ball" was emphatically specified, which if failed to be complied with, the unpunctual individuals came too late! In other words, the wise and talented Secretary was accustomed to observe such an accurate exactness and nicety in punctuality that if the specified time had arrived, and some of his invited guests had not, he considered it a consistent duty to proceed with the object of the gathering forthwith, the attendance of his intended but tardy and unpunctual guests to the contrary notwithstanding. It is this double standard with all his official acts—characteristics of punctuality and scrupulous exactness.

In the business-world we have this virtue strikingly exemplified. A young merchant, just starting out in the world, although in pretty good circumstances, contracts for a large stock of goods, and accumulates a number of debts, &c. But being utterly devoid of punctuality he exercises a tardiness in the payment of his debts, and soon loses the confidence of his fellows of the same fraternity; and lack of custom will also follow, and he soon discovers other merchants monopolize his business. This is but a faint type of the importance and propriety of punctuality. But it is unequivocal that punctuality is an inestimable, invaluable virtue possessed by business men in transacting their financial and other affairs amongst themselves and all classes. Do not the foregoing illustrations teach valuable lessons in favor of the advantages of punctuality? May it not have been one of the chief elements by which our eminent officials and distinguished men attained to their present elevated positions? And who can gainsay the fact that cautious exactness is one of the means by which business men can alone prosper and acquire wealth?

Punctuality is particularly applied to time. With what accuracy does the Sun run his daily course through the skies! The planets and all the heavenly bodies perform their revolutions around their orbits and around the Sun, with regularity and punctuality, at once striking even the most indifferent observer. The immutable laws of nature teach an equally important lesson. Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter succeed each other alternately year after year, and accompanied with their respective changes upon nature, with a sublime celerity. How vividly also do the numerous instances of punctuality present themselves in the late rebellion! The promptness with which the North responded to the calls of the President for men, was the means of saving the National Capital from falling into the hands of fanatical secessionists. Victory or defeat; a pitched battle or unsatisfactory skirmish; and life and death, throughout the whole strife, were the characteristics of punctuality or its opposite. And the result of a body of troops failing to "come up to time," was a precedent of "defeat" or "retreat." And, by the way, the printer's sphere also affords instances of punctuality or promptness. His subscription lists are never free of delinquents; although his paper appears and visits each patron with the regularity of standard clock time, yet there are some who fail to "walk the chalk-line" (to use a current phraseology) in a corresponding manner—by remitting his dues. Of course, we do not mean to make sinister insinuations, or to be obtrusive. But generally speaking, we know this to be a fact; and "facts are stubborn things." In connection with the above instances we may add, that in all the revolutions of time and events there is a regularity and promptness displayed that is past the finite efforts of man to copy.

Punctuality, then, we are persuaded to believe, is one of the chief elements of success—honor, wealth and position, as a general matter, seem dependent upon the diligent exercise of this much-prized virtue. "Semper paratus" (always prepared), is an excellent motto, and by which the punctual man is actuated. Whatever is to be done should be done at once; how infinitely superior this system to that of procrastination! And to adopt the words of an inspired poet: "Be wise to-day; 'tis madness to defer; Next day the fatal precedent will plead; This on, till wisdom is pushed out of life! Procrastination is the thief of time!" When the habit of punctuality is once acquired and made practical, it will be found much easier, and certainly by far more successful, than otherwise—the experience of any punctual man may be a fair criterion for this. Neglect nothing which is involved upon you to gratify indolent inclinations. Lastly, exercise punctuality; and success, if not fortune, will follow in any walk of life.

MERCURY.

On the 19th of June, by the Rev. S. L. M. Conser, Mr. EDWARD BRAME, of Adams county, to Miss SARAH A. STOFFER, of Westmoreland county, Pa.

On the 19th inst., by the same, Mr. THOMAS O. ENOCH, of Philadelphia, to Miss AMANDA J. WARREN, daughter of David Warren, of this place.

On the 7th inst. in York, by Rev. A. G. Lochman, Mr. CHARLES E. ETZLER, of Hanover, to Miss LEAH C. FEISER, of Abbotstown, Adams county.

On Friday night last, in Beudersville, Mr. JACOB C. REIDER, aged about 84 years.

On Saturday last, Mr. WILLIAM McCULLOUGH, son of Mr. Wm. McCullough, of Highland township, died about 22 years. He has just returned from some service in the Army.

On the 20th inst. JACOB HESLER, Jr., of Franklin township, aged 59 years 4 months and 7 days.

On the 27th ult., in Huntingdon township, Mr. ALEXANDER HEIKES, aged about 43 years.

On the 10th inst., at the residence of Amos Leaver, Esq., near Littlestown, OSCAR LEVEY, aged 10 years, died. Mr. Thomas O. Kinner, aged 6 months and 1 day.

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THE ADAMS SENTINEL.

GETTYSBURG:
Tuesday, July 23, 1865.

Union State Convention.

A State Convention will be held at Harrisburg on THURSDAY, THE 17TH OF AUGUST, 1865, at 12 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of putting in nomination a State Ticket, to be supported by the friends of the Union at the coming October election.

The earnest and zealous labors of a loyal people secured the great victory in 1864, and made the war, which our enemies denounced as a failure, a glorious success in 1865.

Our flag is now maintained—our enemies destroyed—our Government preserved, and peace re-established. Let every friend, who aided in this result, take measures to be represented in that Convention. We must see to it that the fruits of our success are not lost to the Nation.

Business of vast importance will be presented for its consideration, and every district in the State should be represented. By order of the Union State Central Committee.
SIMON CAMERON, Chairman.
A. W. FENNER, Secretary.
W. H. FENNER, Secretary.

Two Grand Concerts.

Mr. KEMMERER, assisted by his large class of Young Singers, also Miss KATE KEMMERER, from Lancaster, will give two Musical Entertainments on Tuesday and Thursday, July 25th and 27th, at McCaughy's Hall.

Concert will commence at 8 o'clock. Tickets 15 cents.

Mr. McSHERRY, member of the Senate, has placed us under renewed obligations for the addresses pronounced in the State Senate on the Death of Hon. Robert R. Reed, a representative from the county of Washington. It is gotten up in very handsome style and neatly bound. He has also left us a large number of public documents, reports, &c., for distribution among our friends.

The 21st Pa. Cavalry.

This regiment has been mustered out of service, and was paid off at Harrisburg, a few days ago. Capt. Mickey's company returned on Tuesday. This company went out originally under Capt. Bell, who on the re-organization of the regiment became Major, and Lieut. Mickey was made Captain. The regiment has seen much hard service, and each member returns to his home covered with honors.

Pennsylvania College.

The Commencement Exercises of Pennsylvania College will take place during the second week in August. The Baccalaureate Discourse will be delivered, August 6th, by Rev. Dr. BAYNE. The Junior Exhibition will come off on the morning of the 9th. The Biennial Address before the Philanthropic Society will be delivered on the same morning by Prof. R. W. HITCHCOCK. The Biennial Address before the Phrenological Society, on the afternoon of the same day, by W. B. SRAVAGE, D. D., and the Annual Address before the Alumni of the College, in the evening by Rev. M. VALENTINE. On the morning of the 10th the Commencement exercises will take place.

Presentation of a Portrait.

On Wednesday last, at Harrisburg, a committee of citizens of Philadelphia, representing the Union men of that city, presented to Gen. CAMERON a portrait of himself, as an evidence of their high esteem for him. The members of the Union State Central Committee, and other invited persons, were present at the presentation, which took place in the parlors of the Cameron mansion. James N. Kerns addressed the General in behalf of the Union men of Philadelphia, which was replied to by Gen. Cameron in the most happy manner. After the ceremony, the company present retired to the dining room of the mansion, and did ample justice to a splendid collation. The portrait is life size, elegantly executed by Marchant, of Philadelphia, and is pronounced "a perfect picture."

Sale of Personal Property.

Adam Bollinger, Attorney for the Administrator of Mary Spahr, deceased, will expose to sale, on the 28th inst., at the late residence of the deceased, in Latrobe township, between Berlin and Bragtown, a great variety of Personal Property, such as Cows, Horses, Hogs, and Farming Utensils; also, Household and Kitchen Furniture, Beds and Bedding, Carpets, Tables, Chairs, Bureaus, Dried Fruit, &c. Sale at 10 o'clock.

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Gettysburg Female Institute.

The examinations at this well known school took place during the past week, and the closing Exhibition was given on Friday afternoon the 21st inst. The following is the

ORDER OF EXERCISES:

MUSIC—"The Lord's Prayer."—Miss ANNIE HUBER.

RECITATION—"The Newlands"—Miss ANNIE HUBER.

RECITATION—"The Two Buds."—Miss KATIE SWOPE.

RECITATION—"The Stranger's Heart."—Miss ANNIE HUBER.

ORIGINAL DIALOGUE—"Which is the better, the Clothing of a Well-Furnished Mind?"—Miss MAUDIE SWOPE, IRENE DANKER, and MISSIE BLOOM.

MUSIC—"Sparkling and Bright."—Miss MAUDIE SWOPE.

ESSAY—"War and Peace."—Miss LOUISA VAN DERBILT.

ESSAY—"The Importance of an Early Observation of Religious Duties."—Miss DEL. BOOKS.

ESSAY—"Female Heroism."—Miss K. BURLEIGH.

ESSAY—"The Light of Home."—Miss SALLIE BROWN.

ESSAY—"A Mother's Love."—Miss MARY D. BRIDGES.

ESSAY—"Sir John Franklin."—Miss MARY WINDHOLM.

ESSAY—"Order."—Miss SALLIE STOKES.

ESSAY—"Footsteps of Time."—Miss SALLIE FARR.

MUSIC—"Toll the bell mournfully."—Miss EMMA HUBER.

ESSAY—"The Golden Shore."—Miss EMMA HUBER.

ESSAY—"A Lost Day."—Miss MARY STRALE.

ESSAY—"The Bubble Burst."—Miss MAUDIE KENDALL.

ESSAY—"Only this once."—Miss CARRIE VAN PATTEN.

ESSAY—"The Fourth of July."—Miss SALLIE PANTON.

ESSAY—"They are the most miserable who are the most idle."—Miss KATE LUDWIG.

ESSAY—"Atonement."—Miss LAURA MUSSELMAN.

ESSAY—"There is much in this world to live for."—Miss MATILDA PARKER.

ESSAY—"Sunshine and Darkness."—Miss SALLIE KRAUTH.

ESSAY—"The Conqueror's Last Sleep."—Miss ANNIE HOLLINGER.

MUSIC—"The Juniors' Farewell to their Sisters."—JUNIOR CLASS.

SALUTATORY ESSAY—"Our Daily Tasks, our Daily Duties."—Miss MOLLIE CRAWFORD.

ESSAY—"Mrs. L. H. Sigourney."—Miss A. MEXIGILL.

ESSAY—"In Memoriam—Pres. Lincoln."—Miss SALLIE WELTY.

VALENTINE ESSAY—"Earth's Jewels."—Miss ALICE BESORE.

BESTOWMENT OF DIPLOMAS upon the following GRADUATES:

MISS MOLLIE CRAWFORD, ANEMIA MEXIGILL, SALLIE WELTY, ANNE BESORE.

MUSIC—"From all that dwell, etc."

Miss Carrie Van Patten presided at the Piano.

There was a large audience present, and the exercises were very creditable to the scholars.

Most of the young ladies, however, committed the provoking fault of speaking so low as not to be heard by the entire audience—almost the only essays which could be distinctly understood being those of Misses Emma Huber, Sallie Fry and Alice Besore.

The Preceptress, Mrs. R. M. R. ESTER, announced that the next term of the Institute would commence on the 4th of September.

The Return of the Sneaks.

We notice by our exchanges, that in many localities, large numbers of the skeddaddlers who sought escape from their duty to the Government, by a refuge in Canada, are returning to their homes, believing, now that the war is over, they are relieved from all responsibility for their crimes. In this they are sadly mistaken. The law of Congress explicitly declares that all such deserters, who failed to return to their companies or report to a Provost Marshal, within sixty days after the issue of Proclamation dated March 3d, 1865, should forfeit their rights and franchises as citizens. This law is now in full force and operation. All deserters who have failed to report before the 1st of May, 1865, have consequently forfeited their citizenship. It is well enough for the people in the localities where these skeddaddlers now seek to resume their citizenship, to remember these legal facts, and see that they are properly enforced.

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The South Carolina delegation had an interview of some length with President Johnson on Wednesday afternoon.

They assured the President of the disposition of the people of their State to acquiesce in the result of the war, and accept the consequences attendant upon the failure of the rebellion, including the abolition of slavery and the reconstruction of their State Constitution so as to make it more in accordance with a republican form of Government, giving to the people directly the election of Presidential electors, and equalizing representation in the State Legislature, &c. The President talked to them very plainly and firmly, but kindly, indicating the policy which he is determined to perform in settling existing difficulties and restoring the State to its former relations with the General Government.

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A Friendly Message.

At the last yearly meeting of the English Friends, or Quakers, a letter to the members of the society in this country was prepared and has since been forwarded